

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00

CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05

SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6130

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA POUCH

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD EFIN MO

SUBJECT: NEW MOROCCAN RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS:

GOM ANNOUNCES FIRST LIBERALIZATION MEASURES

REF A. RABAT 4066, B. RABAT 3852, C. RABAT 3334,

D. RABAT 3763, E. CASABLANCA 983

1. FOLLOWING THE SERIES OF MAJOR GOM MODIFICATIONS TO ITS NATIONAL IMPORT REGIME REPORTED REFTELS, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY HAS NOW ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST LIBERALIZATION MEASURES WILL TAKE EFFECT JULY 10. THESE MEASURES ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE DISLOCATON EXPECTED AMONG CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AS A RESULT OF THE IMPORT PROHIBITION AND
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LICENSING REQUIREMENTS PROMULGATED IN JUNE.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS AFFECTED INCLUDE (A) FROM LIST B (IMPORTS SUBJECT TO LICENSING) TO LIST A (FREE IMPORTATION); AUTOMOTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY PARTS, PLASTIC TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT. (B) FROM LIST C (PROHIBITED IMPORTS) TO LIST B (IMPORTS SUBJECT

TO LICENSING); CHEESE PRODUCTS (E.G. EUROPEAN CHEESE CULTURES FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF GRUYERE, CAMEMBERT, GOUDA, ETC), IRON AND STEEL CARPENTRY EQUIPMENT, ACADEMIC MATERIALS AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. SEPAIR TRANSMITS ITEMIZED LIST BY BTN OF PRODUCTS LIBERALIZED.

3. COMMENT: THESE IMPORT LIBERALIZATION MEASURES ARE PART OF A CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT BY GOM TRADE OFFICIALS TO INSURE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPERATIVE IMPORT LIMITATION MEASURES DOES NOT RESULT IN SEVERE SHORT-TERM DIFFICULTIES FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES. IN THE CASE OF AUTOMOBILE AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINE SPARE PARTS, IT BECAME READILY APPARENT TO MANY OBSERVERS THAT DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES COULD NOT FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY IF SUBJECT TO OFTEN TIME-CONSUMING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND ATTENDANT ERRATIC DELIVERY OF GOODS. SIMILARLY, DOMESTIC CHEESE INDUSTRIES WOULD HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY CONTINUING THEIR OPERATIONS IF BAN ON IMPORTATION OF INDUSTRIAL CHEESE PRODUCTS HAD CONTINUED.

4. IN ANY CASE, GOM TRADE OFFICIALS INDICATE THEY EXPECT TO PROMOTE THE GREATEST REDUCTION IN IMPORTS BY MEANS OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND THE 25 PERCENT PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT FOR LARGE IMPORTING FIRMS. THE LATTER MEASURE IS EXPECTED TO REDUCE THE UNNECESSARILY LARGE INVENTORIES OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTING FIRMS AS WELL AS LIQUIDATE MARGINAL IMPORTERS. WHILE NEW LIBERALIZING MEASURES HAVE BEEN GREETED WITH RELIEF, MAJORITY OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY REGARDS PRIOR IMPORTDEPOSIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIREMENT AS MOST TROUBLESOME ELEMENT OF NEW IMPORT REGIME. EVEN SOME OF LARGER COMPANIES DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE SUFFICIENTLY LARGE CASH FLOW POSITION TO MEET LENGTHY DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT, WHICH WILL FORCE COMBINATION OF CUSTOMER DOWN-PAYMENTS AND RECOURSE TO AN ALREADY TIGHTLY REIGNED-IN CREDIT MARKET. ANDERSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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